PLAIN and FAMILIAR

INSTRUCTIONS

For PERSONS afflicted with

RUPTURES.

In which are given

DISTINCT NOTIONS of theſe MALADIES,

And the moſt proper Means of curing them.

WITH

RULES and DIRECTIONS

FOR THE

USE and APPLICATION

OF

TRUSSES.

Stultorum incurata pudor malus ulcera celat. Hor.

The FIFTH EDITION, with alterations and augmentations.

By GEORGE ARNAUD, antient Fellow of the Royal Academy of Surgery, Vice-Profeſſor in the School of *St. Côme* in *Paris*, and Member of the Corporation of Surgeons in *London*.

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PLAIN

DISSERTATION
ON
RUPTURES.

INTRODUCTION.

THOUGH Ruptures are far more frequent than is generally imagined, yet there is no diſorders with which the public is leſs acquainted. Moſt perſons are prompted by a principle of curioſity to form ſome general ideas even of the leaſt common diſeaſes, without giving themſelves the ſmalleſt trouble to ſtudy them. They reaſon and talk concerning them in daily converſations, and they think themſelves ſufficiently qualified to form a judgment of the capacities of various practitioners, extol the ſkill of one, and as much depreciate that of another; nay, what is ſtill more, they think they have a right to criticiſe on the moſt abſtruſe medicinal productions.

THESE things are far from being inconſiſtent with the general welfare of mankind, when they do not tend to obſtruct the intention of phyſicians and ſurgeons in the rational and methodical treatment of diſeaſes. If Phyſic and Surgery were made

an amuſing ſtudy, it would be in the power of every one to reaſon with exactneſs, to judge with diſcernment of the capacity of practitioners, and to read their works with ſome advantage. Every man has, no doubt, an uncontroverted right to be his own phyſician: but no one to practiſe in that capacity on others, without having acquired a competent knowledge of diſeaſes. Why, then, do not people take more pains? Men, from ſome cauſe or other, often give themſelves a great deal of labour to acquire particular branches of learning, intirely contrary to their ſtate and condition in life; but every one pretends to be a phyſician, without taking the ſmalleſt care to obtain a due acquaintance with diſeaſes. Nothing, however, ought to be thought of more importance than the ſtudy of medicine, ſince all men are, more or leſs, ſubject to diſeaſes. Beſides, no branch of knowledge affords a more noble and exalted pleaſure to the human mind, than the ſtudy of the animal œconomy, without which no acquaintance with diſeaſes can poſſibly be obtained. This, among all other parts of learning, is at once the moſt curious and the moſt neceſſary. Man, who is the principal object of its reſearches and diſcoveries, is bleſſed with a degree of excellency ſuperior to that of the other works of nature, how perfect ſoever in their reſpective kinds. "Really (ſays *Boyle* *) it ſeems to me not only highly diſhonourable for a reaſonable ſoul to live in ſo "divinely built a manſion, as the body ſhe reſides "in, altogether unacquainted with the exquiſite "ſtructure of it, but I am confident, it is a great "obſtacle to our rendring God the praiſes due to "him, for his having ſo excellently lodged us, that "we are ſo ignorant of the curious workmanſhip of

* Conſiderat. touching the uſefulneſs of experim. & natur. Philoſophy. p. 95. 2d. edit. 1664.

"the

" the manſions our ſouls live in, &c. &c." Why, therefore, do not people make it their buſineſs to know the ſtructure, order, and the uſes of the ſeveral parts of which the human machine is compoſed? Some perhaps will remonſtrate that the ſtudy of anatomy is diſguſting; but on ſuppoſition that this was true, yet the obligation we lie under from ſelf-intereſt to know our own frame and make, ought to ſurmount and counter-balance all thoſe offences againſt our natural delicacy with which the ſtudy of it may ſeem to be accompanied. Beſides, every perſon is not obliged to operate with his own hands. The draughts of the ſeveral parts from the greateſt maſters, and every where to be found in their works, ſet thoſe ideas in a clear light, which a ſimple reading might have left obſcure and perplexed. Should it be objected, that, if we were acquainted with the delicacy and fineneſs of the parts on which our health, and even our lives depend, it would imbitter life by continually repreſenting death to our view in ſuch a great variety of ſhapes; I anſwer, that this would by no means happen, ſince we ſhould, on the contrary, rather learn to ſpare and preſerve theſe parts, and avoid the means which, without being ſenſible of our folly, we continually employ to deſtroy them. How many great and ingenious men have, notwithſtanding the weakneſs of their conſtitutions, arrived at extreme old age, who, without this ſo neceſſary knowledge of anatomy, would have died in the very flower of their youth? By means of this knowledge of the animal œconomy every man will be in a condition to ſtudy his own conſtitution, to obſerve the changes which happen to it, to guard againſt every thing that might prejudice it, to diſcover the cauſes of diſeaſes, to know their principal differences, ſymptoms, and ſigns, and, in a word, when he is ſeized with any diſorder, he will be able to give a juſt account of it to his doctor,

who, for that reaſon, will be better able to know what to do immediately; whereas he is often obliged to ſpend the firſt days of the diſeaſe in inveſtigating its nature and ſpecies, ſtudying the conſtitution of the patient, and forming the moſt proper plan for his proceeding in the courſe of the cure, otherwiſe they grope along in the dark.

PHYSIC and Surgery would be ſo far from ſuſtaining any loſs by theſe means, that they would reap conſiderable advantages from them. The public becoming more knowing, would perhaps be in a condition to make ſome happy diſcoveries *. They would form judgments of the dangerous and intricate complications of diſeaſes: they would be witneſs of the contraſte or contrariety between the indications and contra-indications in diſeaſes: they would not ſo raſhly impute to the moſt ſkilful and judicious practitioners in the art of curing ſuppoſed faults and errors, of which they are by no means guilty: they on the contrary would be forced to do theſe men honour by admiring thoſe maſterly ſtrokes of practice, which are often highly laudable: and they would be able to judge of the true cauſes of death, which are ſometimes inſurmountable.

IT is otherwiſe with reſpect to Ruptures than with moſt other diſeaſes: for though the people have ſome ſuperficial idea of the common diſorders of the

* Perſons, whoſe genius has a turn to the ſtudy of phyſic, have diſcovered remedies uſeful to the human body, that the phyſicians have adopted in their practice. Without Lord LACARAYE, a French Count, we ſhould not have known the *fixed-hydrolic ſalts* of herbs, for the diſcovery of which the king was pleaſed to grant him an honourable gift.

The uſe of *ſoap* was not ſo generally known in phyſic, till Mrs. STEPHENS found it by her happy experience for the ſtone in the bladder, and the gravel in the kidnies, which was ſo eſteemed that the parliament gave her the ſum of five thouſand pounds for her remedy.

body,

body, yet the name of Rupture is hardly known among the vulgar, and much leſs among perſons of note and diſtinction, who ought to have more extenſive knowledge and comprehenſion of things.

The reaſon why people know ſo little of the diſorders, is owing to a circumſtance peculiar to them; namely, their attacking either the parts of generation, or thoſe adjacent, by which means a harſh and diſagreeable ſhock is given to that vanity and ſelf-love which prevails but too much in the human breaſt: upon which the fair ſex weakly imagine, that theſe diſorders carry with them a ſort of obſcenity, which too groſly offends the modeſty of their ſex; and therefore they do not care to talk of them. This is alſo the particular reaſon which hinders ſome from being inſtructed with reſpect to the true character of theſe diſorders; and which, by making others decline the aſſiſtance neceſſary for their relief, forces them to conceal their infirmities within their own breaſt. With reſpect to men, a great number of theſe imagine, that ſuch of their own ſex, as labour under this diſorder, are incapable of performing the moſt common duties of life; ſo that moſt men avoid ſpeaking of them: whereas thoſe who are really afflicted with, not daring to conſult able ſurgeons, who deſerve to have an entire confidence repoſed in them, remain ignorant of the diſorder, and inactive with reſpect to its cauſe. The more vulgar and indigent people being incapable of reaſoning on theſe diſeaſes, and not in a condition of procuring the neceſſary means of relief, ſtruggle through the remains of a languiſhing and miſerable life, under the weight of their calamities. Families, cities, and even kingdoms, are ſometimes almoſt univerally afflicted with Puptures, without ever ſo much as thinking on the means of curing them. The patients are deplorable victims of that neglect and contempt, into which the maſters of the art have

ſuf-

ſuffered theſe diſorders to fall. Surgeons leave the treatment of patients afflicted with ruptures to common workmen, whoſe meaſures prove mortal to an incredible number of their fellow-creatures, as I have ſhewn in the preface of my larger work on theſe diſorders *. Theſe men, incapable of making the ſmalleſt diſcoveries in the nature, or improvements in the cure of theſe diſorders, have greatly injured and depreciated, in the eſteem of others, thoſe from whoſe ſkill real relief might be expected: ſo that this part of ſurgery is fallen into ſo great a diſcredit that every man who profeſſes himſelf a ſurgeon for Ruptures is looked upon as a Quack: but this prejudice would be diſſipated, if all thoſe who aſſume this character were able and ſkilful ſurgeons.

On account of the great truſt with which the public has honoured me, I think it my duty, in point of gratitude, to ſupply them, by way of inſtructions, with a general knowledge of theſe diſeaſes, and of the means of preventing their ſymptoms. It often happens, that a patient is in the greateſt agony, when ſurgeons come to his relief, and that he dies by neglecting to employ the firſt remedies ſeaſonably. I have ſeen numbers die, ſome through an ignorance of their condition, others from a delicacy inſpired by modeſty; others confeſſing their misfortune; others

* Thoſe who deſire a fuller account may be ſatisfied by providing themſelves with the complete edition, in a large volume 8vo of this work, intitled, *a Diſſertation on Hernias, or Ruptures*, ſold by A. MILLAR, bookſeller, oppoſite to *Catherine Street* in the *Strand*, *London*, in which all the tricks of the quacks are revealed: the anatomical diſpoſitions of the parts concerned in ruptures are explained: the remedies proper for all caſes are deſcribed: and a great number of obſervations on various and extraordinary cures are related. I have alſo publiſhed *a Diſſertation on Hermaphrodites*, (with copper plales) relative to the ſame ſubject.

for

for having been in country places, far diſtant from towns where the neceſſary means of relief were to be had, and the greateſt number for want of having due care taken of them. As every one will have it in his power from this work to know theſe diſorders, together with their ſymptoms, and the methods of removing them, ſo no perſon for the future ought to alledge his ignorance as an excuſe for his negligence. When it is known that theſe diſorders are common to every body, that a ſagacious and ſkilful ſurgeon can remove them, without offending againſt the ſtricteſt laws of modeſty, and that it is his intereſt to keep the ſecret, people will become leſs ſcrupulous in ſeeking for the means of relief, and with an entire confidence commit themſelves to his care. Thoſe who are too far diſtant to have the neceſſary aſſiſtance ſoon enough, will know what remedies are to be uſed, while they wait for the arrival of a ſkilful ſurgeon, whom patients ſometimes cannot find but at a great diſtance. This interval of time, which is always precious, will be employed in uſing the proper remedies, which I ſhall carefully ſpecify, when it is known that the whole ſucceſs of the beſt methods, which the moſt ſkilful ſurgeon can put in practice, depends on the good uſe which has been made of the remedies indicated in the beginning of the diſorder. Among ſeveral inſtances of this. A gentlewoman from *Bath* who lodged in the houſe of Mr. *Davy*, in *Beaufort Buildings* in the *Strand*, was afflicted with a ſtrangulation of the bowels at 6 o'clock in the evening, *Auguſt* 18, 1754: She paſſed the night without knowing the cauſe of her diſorder, which made her ſuffer the greateſt agony that is poſſible to expreſs; but ſhe was ſaved by the due care of Mr. *Levet*, a ſkilful ſurgeon, who knew the caſe, and applied the proper remedies to it, till he had time to ſend and adviſe with me: at my arrival at 8 o'clock in the morning the day after, I found her near expiring; but

but as the preparatory remedies had been uſed by Mr. *Levet*, I was ſo happy to deliver her inſtantly from the Jaws of death.

PATIENTS may even in ſome caſes be cured by the ſole uſe of theſe remedies, without having any occaſion for manual operations. I having frequently found patients cured, when I arrived at their habitations in different countries, whither I was called to their relief. The prince of *Talmon*, who reſided at that time upon his own eſtate, about 300 miles from *Paris*, ſent to me in the year 1739. I being in the country, Mr. *Le Dran*, an eminent ſurgeon went in my ſtead, and had the ſatisfaction to find the prince cured, without any other means than the uſe of the method I had preſcribed to him, in caſe he ſhould be ſurpriſed by any diſcouraging ſymptom. A great many charitable perſons, who, in country places, employ themſelves in relieving poor patients, have preſerved from death numbers who would otherwiſe have died, had not the means which I preſcribed them been applied on ſuch occaſions, when theſe diſorders called for a ſpeedy aſſiſtance. Theſe benevolent perſons deſired that I would give them a courſe of connected and rational rules, for the treatment of their patients. They perceived how dangerous it was to ſubject themſelves to ſimple formulas, which are always no leſs trifling than fallacious when applied without judgment; having often remarked, that ſuch remedies as in ſome caſes had been efficacious, in others proved very prejudicial, and ſometimes mortal

THE inſtructions with which I now preſent the public, are the ſame which I formerly began to compoſe for the benefit of the poor, and having in the preface of my larger work given the reaſons for my devoting myſelf to their ſervice, I ſhall here add the following reflections for their uſe, ſince they corroborate

rate and ſtrengthen the deſire I always had to fulfill my engagement upon this head.

THE Poores are in a State almoſt the ſame as ſhades in a Picture: they form a neceſſary contraſte, under which humanity ſometimes groans, but they does honour to the views of Providence. No doubt, the vanity, ambition, and caprice of men firſt eſtabliſhed the grievous diſtinction between them and the rich; but in the preſent condition of things, it is proper and expedient to ſupport and preſerve it. 'Tis therefore requiſite there ſhould be poor, but it is by no means neceſſary that they ſhould be miſerable: the latter are a deplorable reproach to humanity; whereas the former enter as ſo many util members into the political œconomy of the beſt governed ſtates, in which, by their labour and induſtry, abundance reigns, all the conveniencies of life are found, and the mechanic and more ſervile arts are improved and made more uſefull. Do not ſo many conſiderable advantages ariſing from the poor loudly call upon us to ſupply them, at leaſt, with what is neceſſary to enable them patiently to ſupport the pinching hardſhips of their condition? The public intereſt, and even humanity itſelf, dictate leſſons on this ſubject, ſo moving, that a perſon of the ſmalleſt degree of tenderneſs of heart, can never withſtand their force and energy. Founded upon this principle, their neceſſities were always the rules of my conduct: at any hour whatever they are always welcome to me; the Public is my witneſs that I have never refuſed to go to relieve them in their illneſſes.

THIS work being adapted to the capacity of charitable perſons, and conſequently advantageous to the poor, will, for that reaſon, be ſo much the more beneficial to every body; and for this purpoſe I have made it my principal buſineſs to render it clear and diſtinct, by avoiding hard and uncouth terms of art,

and making uſe of common expreſſions, and ſuch as every body can eaſily underſtand. I have given the true deſcriptions of Ruptures, their different ſpecies, their diſtinguiſhing ſigns, the various ſymptoms which appear in them, and the true rules which the patients ſhould obſerve, with precepts for the application and uſe of Truſſes, with which I hope thoſe who ſtand in need of them will have reaſon to be pleaſed. In a word, I have done all I could to render this work uſeful, and executed my deſign in ſuch a manner, as that the moſt ignorant may reap from it all the advantages and aſſiſtances requiſite for the cure and removal of their infirmities.

But as it is very difficult to obtain a ſufficient knowledge of theſe diſeaſes, without having previouſly a general idea of the parts affected, I thought it proper to give in my larger work, a plain account and deſcription of the parts of the Belly, and thoſe of generation which have the greateſt connexion with theſe diſorders.

As it is almoſt impoſſible to devote one's talents to the uſe of the Public, without occaſioning jealouſy in ſome perſons, I ſhall take this opportunity of anſwering thoſe, who without regarding their own characters, have ventured their credit by vilifying, and abſolutely denying, the poſſibility of the extraordinary cures related in my former treatiſe upon this ſubject, though they are proved by the moſt reſpectable witneſſes*.

The IIId obſervation, p. 292, of my diſſertation upon Ruptures, was one of thoſe which was moſt generally conteſted by the gentlemen of the profeſſion in *London*: but the affinity this obſervation has with the following caſe of a gentleman whoſe high ſtation in life does not permit me to name him, will, perhaps, make good that particular and conteſted caſe: among

* I cut away more than ſeven feet of the Gut, and the Patient cured, ſee my large edit. p. 341. but it was denyed by ſome Surgeons quite ignorant of ſuch caſes.

ſeveral witneſſes which may teſtify this cure, Dr. *Watſon*, an eminent phyſician and fellow of the Royal Society in *London*, as well known by his probity, as by his learning, ſeems to me to be ſufficient to teſtify the truth of this.

In the year 1749, the patient, then about 66 years of age, had a Rupture from his infancy, which continually increaſing became to 30 inches of circumference. This rupture which, for 16 years together, did not return into the belly, was looked upon as incurable (in conſideration of its contracted adherences) by Mr. *Cheſelden*, whoſe deciſions were moſt often prevailing and right. The patient having then no hopes of any relief from his diſorder, bore with all the reſolution and firmneſs of a man of ſenſe, the moſt grievous ſymptoms of this diſeaſe. He was tortured by continual gripings of the guts, bad digeſtions, frequent ſwimmings of the head, and by a very troubleſome, and involuntary provocation to make water: the penis entirely concealed in the exceſſive bigneſs of the ſwelling, cauſed new troubles every time the patient wanted to make water: believing that the ſtranguary was occaſioned by ſome diſorder in the paſſage of the urine, he had recourſe to Doctor *Plunckett*, who had then the firſt rank among thoſe who treated the diſeaſes of the urethra. Dr. *Plunckett* probed the urethra, but found no obſtruction in it; he felt but one oppoſition made by the parts contained in the ſcrotum. The Doctor, who had been witneſs of ſome particular cures that I had done in that ſort of diſorder, adviſed the patient to put himſelf under my care. The 15th of *July* 1749, I was called into conſultation on that caſe with Doctor *Plunckett*, and Dr. *Watſon*. I found by an exact ſearch of the diſeaſe, that it was a Rupture compoſed of ſome part of the Caul, of the Guts, and of the urinary Bladder. I explained, by the miſplaced parts, all the ſymptoms with which the patient was vexed. So great a

and making uſe of common expreſſions, and ſuch as every body can eaſily underſtand. I have given the true deſcriptions of Ruptures, their different ſpecies, their diſtinguiſhing ſigns, the various ſymptoms which appear in them, and the true rules which the patients ſhould obſerve, with precepts for the application and uſe of Truſſes, with which I hope thoſe who ſtand in need of them will have reaſon to be pleaſed. In a word, I have done all I could to render this work uſeful, and executed my deſign in ſuch a manner, as that the moſt ignorant may reap from it all the advantages and aſſiſtances requiſite for the cure and removal of their infirmities.

BUT as it is very difficult to obtain a ſufficient knowledge of theſe diſeaſes, without having previouſly a general idea of the parts affected, I thought it proper to give in my larger work, a plain account and deſcription of the parts of the Belly, and thoſe of generation which have the greateſt connexion with theſe diſorders.

As it is almoſt impoſſible to devote one's talents to the uſe of the Public, without occaſioning jealouſy in ſome perſons, I ſhall take this opportunity of anſwering thoſe, who without regarding their own characters, have ventured their credit by vilifying, and abſolutely denying, the poſſibility of the extraordinary cures related in my former treatiſe upon this ſubject, though they are proved by the moſt reſpectable witneſſes*.

THE IIId obſervation, p. 292, of my diſſertation upon Ruptures, was one of thoſe which was moſt generally conteſted by the gentlemen of the profeſſion in *London*: but the affinity this obſervation has with the following caſe of a gentleman whoſe high ſtation in life does not permit me to name him, will, perhaps, make good that particular and conteſted caſe: among

* I cut away more than ſeven feet of the Gut, and the Patient cured, ſee my large edit. p. 341. but it was denyed by ſome Surgeons quite ignorant of ſuch caſes.

ſeveral

ſeveral witneſſes which may teſtify this cure, Dr. *Watſon*, an eminent phyſician and fellow of the Royal Society in *London*, as well known by his probity, as by his learning, ſeems to me to be ſufficient to teſtify the truth of this.

In the year 1749, the patient, then about 66 years of age, had a Rupture from his infancy, which continually increaſing became to 30 inches of circumference. This rupture which, for 16 years together, did not return into the belly, was looked upon as incurable (in conſideration of its contracted adherences) by Mr. *Cheſelden*, whoſe deciſions were moſt often prevailing and right. The patient having then no hopes of any relief from his diſorder, bore with all the reſolution and firmneſs of a man of ſenſe, the moſt grievous ſymptoms of this diſeaſe. He was tortured by continual gripings of the guts, bad digeſtions, frequent ſwimmings of the head, and by a very troubleſome, and involuntary provocation to make water: the penis entirely concealed in the exceſſive bigneſs of the ſwelling, cauſed new troubles every time the patient wanted to make water: believing that the ſtranguary was occaſioned by ſome diſorder in the paſſage of the urine, he had recourſe to Doctor *Plunckett*, who had then the firſt rank among thoſe who treated the diſeaſes of the urethra. Dr. *Plunckett* probed the urethra, but found no obſtruction in it; he felt but one oppoſition made by the parts contained in the ſcrotum. The Doctor, who had been witneſs of ſome particular cures that I had done in that ſort of diſorder, adviſed the patient to put himſelf under my care. The 15th of *July* 1749, I was called into conſultation on that caſe with Doctor *Plunckett*, and Dr. *Watſon*. I found by an exact ſearch of the diſeaſe, that it was a Rupture compoſed of ſome part of the Caul, of the Guts, and of the urinary Bladder. I explained, by the miſplaced parts, all the ſymptoms with which the patient was vexed. So great a

quantity of bowels lying in an unnatural place, it was impoſſible that it ſhould not but be extremely painful to him, and from hence proceeded the cauſe of the gripings; the lengthening of the Caul had forced the ſtomach to come down, and this laſt being diſplaced the digeſtions were imperfect, and troubleſome to the patient; the greateſt part of the bladder lying in the ſcrotum, the leſſer part of it which remained in the Belly*, contained but a ſmall quantity of urine, and obliged the patient to make a very little at a time, but very often; the conſtraint of all theſe parts ſlackened the motion of the blood in the Belly, which cauſed it to return in a greater quantity into the Brain, and gave occaſion to the ſwimmings in the head to which the patient was ſubject; the total diſappearing of the penis was explained by the exceſſive bigneſs of the ſwelling that hid its ſubſtance, and deſtroyed its figure. I propoſed to the patient to cure him of all his diſorders and of the Rupture together; but this propoſition ſeemed to him and his friends to be a paradox: but after having demonſtrated the poſſibility of it to them, by alledging the inſtance of the IIId obſervation, p. 292. of my diſſertation upon Ruptures, they were convinced, and the patient directly reſolved to follow all that I preſcribed. The 13th day of the treatment I put up the Rupture, and nothing preternatural remained in the ſcrotum, to the great ſurprize of the patient, and of his friends. I kept the parts in their proper place by the means of a convenient Truſs, and all the ſymptoms vaniſhed away immediately after: the bladder received ſtrength by degrees to contain the urine, and after ſome weeks the patient was able to keep it five or ſix hours, and he never enjoyed ſo good a ſtate of health as ſince that time, except a falſe palſy that he got about a year

* Speaking to the gentlemen of the profeſſion, I ſhould ſay, *Pelvis*.

ago

ago. Notwithſtanding he has always made uſe of the Truſs ſince that operation, I may affirm it is more by prudence than neceſſity, for indeed I have been tired with ſoliciting him to quit it.

THIS is the only anſwer that I give to thoſe perſons who would willingly have ruined my credit; but, inſtead of that, have given me much more reputation, by putting it in my power to vindicate myſelf, both to the Public, and to them.

I STILL inſiſt that I have not made uſe, in that ſecond caſe, of any other means than thoſe laid down in the IIId obſervation, p. 292. and Dr. *Watſon* can affirm, that he both exhibited and adminiſtred the ſame medicine to the patient: and the Public may be convinced that my principal view is to be as ſerviceable as I can to my fellow-creatures, by carefully avoiding the baſe artifice of Quacks who make a ſecret of the medicines which I freely communicated in my large edition. See the note p. 6.

DURING the time of printing this eſſay, Dr. *Watſon* above-mentioned is witneſs of a like operation (atended with nearly the ſame circumſtances) of a perſon too eminent to be named publicly.

PLAIN and FAMILIAR

INSTRUCTIONS ON RUPTURES.

CHAP. I.

Of Ruptures in general.

THE DESIGN OF THE WORK. THE intention which I have of giving inſtructions to perſons afflicted with Ruptures, neceſſarily obliges me to enter into a ſhort detail of the character of theſe diſorders, their differences, their cauſes, their ſigns, and their ſymptoms, in order to arrive at the knowledge of the means proper to guard againſt, or cure them.

RUP-

WHAT A RUPTURE IS. RUPTURES are tumours or ſwellings formed by the iſſuing forth of ſome of the parts contained in the Belly.

The parts contained in the Belly are the Caul, the Guts, the Stomach, the Liver, the Spleen: the parts which ſerve to contain thoſe, are the Skin, the Fat, the Muſcles (commonly call'd Fleſh), and the Peritoneum; the Muſcles have five natural apertures, which permit the exit of the Guts and Caul *&c.* All theſe parts are exactly explained in the anatomical expoſition, Sect. I. of my book, cited in the preliminary diſcourſe.

DIVISION OF RUPTURES. Ruptures are divided into true and falſe.

TRUE. True Ruptures are ſuch as are formed by the coming forth of thoſe parts contained in the Belly, properly or comparatively ſpeaking.

FALSE. Falſe Ruptures are tumours or ſwellings formed by the collection of the Blood, the Lympha, or other humours, in the parts where true Ruptures happen.

DISTINCTION OF RUPTURES. Ruptures are diſtinguiſhed according to the parts of which they conſiſt, and the places which they poſſeſs.

DIFFERENCES ACCORDING TO THE PARTS. They differ among themſelves on the ſcore of the parts of which they conſiſt; ſome being formed by the Guts; others by the Caul; and others, again, by the Guts and the caul together.

There are alſo ſome Ruptures formed by the Stomach, the Spleen and the Bladder (which happens rarely); others by the Ovaries, and the Womb paſſing thro' the openings, in the bending of the groin; (but theſe ſorts of Ruptures happen ſtill more rarely:) and ſo, without inſiſting on a particular detail of them, which would throw confuſion into the diſcourſe, I ſhall only mention thoſe produced by the Gut and the Caul. It would be proper alſo to ſpeak of the relaxation of

the

the Womb, of its inverſion; of the inverſion and prolapſus of the fundament, but it is not poſſible to treat of thoſe in ſo ſhort a ſpecimen; theſe are explained at large in Sect. II. Part I. of my book.

DIFFERENCES OF RUPTURES, ACCORDING TO THE PLACES. The true Ruptures differ among themſelves, from the places they poſſeſs; in that ſome happen in the Navel; and theſe are therefore called Ruptures of the Navel: others in the groin, and theſe are called inguinal: others, in the bending of the thighs, and called Femoral: others, again, are formed in different parts of the ſurface of the Belly, and called Ruptures of the Belly.

There are, beſides, other Ruptures which happen in other places, and which, for that reaſon, differ from theſe others; as ſome happen in the Loins, others in the Vagina; others, again, which are formed at the holes at the bottom of the hanch bones,; but I ſhall wave ſpeaking of all theſe different ſorts of Ruptures, as they happen but very rarely, theſe extraordinary caſes claiming only the attention of the Gentlemen of the Faculty.

I ſhould here have ſpoke of the nature of falſe Ruptures; but to avoid confuſion, I refer perſons concerned in ſuch caſes to chap. xxix of my book.

CHAP. II.

Of the general Cauſes of Ruptures.

WHAT A CAUSE IS. PHYSICIANS call cauſes of diſeaſes every affection againſt nature, which produces, or which concurs to produce, diſeaſes. The cauſes of Ruptures are divided into remote or primitive, and into proximate or determining.

REMOTE

REMOTE CAUSES. The remote cauſes are thoſe which ariſe from the conſtitution, which the Patients bring with them into the world, or from the diſpoſition they acquire by their manner of living. As it is not to be doubted, but that children ordinarily enough inherit the good or bad qualities of the Soul and Body of their parents; ſo it is equally certain, that robuſt parents commonly produce ſtrong and vigorous children; and the delicate, children of the like delicacy of conſtitution with themſelves; the gouty, gouty; the phthiſical, phthiſical, *&c.* thoſe who have Ruptures very often produce children with diſpoſitions to Ruptures, conſequently the moſt remote cauſes of Ruptures may be traced up to the diſpoſition which is communicated to the child at the moment of its conception.

PRIMITIVE CAUSES, WHENCE THEY MOST COMMONLY PROCEED. It is much more common to find the primitive or remote cauſes of theſe diſeaſes in the manner of living. All the parts which are contained in the Belly, and all theſe which contains them are naturally ſoftened and relaxed by reſpiring a too moiſt air, by inhabiting marſhy places, by the too frequent uſe of relaxing aliments, ſuch as too thin milk of a nurſe of a bad conſtitution, oil, butter, water, ſmall beer, and the like.

DETERMINING CAUSES. Whatever is capable of determining the parts, already relaxed, to come forth, is conſidered as the immediate cauſe of theſe diſorders. Loud crying, Leaping, Straining, Coſtiveneſs, Pregnancy, force the parts contained in the Belly to ſtretch, and come out through thoſe places (*the natural apertures of the Belly*) where they happen to meet with the leaſt reſiſtance. The reader will find a fuller account of the cauſes of Rupturesin the large edition, chap. IV.

CHAP. III.

Of the ſigns of true Ruptures.

WHAT A SIGN IS. THE ſigns of diſeaſes are ſenſible marks, which diſcover, and diſtinguiſh them from each other. Some of them diſcover the preſent ſtate, the character, and the ſpecies of the diſeaſe; and they are called diagnoſtic: others again enable us to judge of the iſſue of a diſeaſe; and theſe are called prognoſtic.

DIAGNOSTIC SIGNS OF RUPTURES. The diagnoſtic ſigns, common to all true Hernias or Ruptures, differ according to the progreſs of the diſeaſe. When the Rupture is juſt about forming, the Patient feels a ſmall pain, like that of an Excoriation, of the ſkin, within the Belly; when the Rupture increaſes, he perceives, on applying the hand, a ſmall ſwelling, which diſappears upon preſſing with the finger; when entirely formed, cholical pains are from time to time felt in the Rupture, and which extend to the parts contain'd under and about the Navel. The diagnoſtic ſigns, common to all ſpecies of true Ruptures do, beſides, diſcover what parts they conſiſt of, whether of the Gut, or Caul, or of both together. Thoſe conſiſting of the Gut are known by a ſmall rumbling noiſe cauſed by the wind and the fluid matters contained in the Gut, which rumbling is heard, eſpecially, upon handling the Rupture, in order to procure its return. Thoſe formed of the Caul diſcover themſelves, upon the touch, by a doughy reſiſtance, like what we feel, when we handle a piece of Tripe. In thoſe formed of the Gut and Caul together, theſe ſigns are mixt, that is to ſay, they are found combined.

PROG-

PROGNOSTIC SIGNS OF RUPTURES. In regard to prognoſtic ſigns, it may be ſaid, in general, that Ruptures are very troubleſome diſorders, when they are neglected, and come to be attended with ſome ſubſequent accidents: thoſe formed of the Gut are more dangerous than thoſe formed of the Caul; thoſe happening in the Navel, and in the ſurface of the Belly, more difficult to cure than thoſe called inguinal; and thoſe happening in the bendings of the thigh, are, of all, the moſt difficult of cure.

In fine, all of them are ſo much the more difficult to cure, as they are of an older ſtanding; conſequently leſs ſo in children.

CHAP. IV.

Of the ſymptoms of Ruptures.

WHAT A SYMPTOM IS. SYMPTOM is an effect of the diſeaſe, which diſappears when the cauſe ceaſes.

STRANGULATION. Of all the ſymptoms of Ruptures, that of the ſtrangulation is the moſt formidable and dangerous, and againſt which Patients ſhould be moſt on their guard, either in preventing it, or ſeeking out the means of cure, and uſing them upon the firſt appearance of this ſymptom, being never ſo little neglected, it is impoſſible for the moſt expert Surgeon to remedy it. The death of the late Queen is too ſenſible an inſtance of this truth, not to be capable of ſtriking every Patient; for who could procure better means of aſſiſtance than ſhe upon this melancholiy occaſion?

WHAT STRANGULATION IS. By Strangulation we underſtand a degree of ſtraitening, which happens by the ſtrong compreſſion of the parts thro' which

the Gut paſſes, and which do not ſuffer it to return into the Belly. In this caſe, then, the Gut is ſtrangled, and this Strangulation cannot happen without two other ſymptoms extremely eaſy to be diſcern'd; the firſt is an inflammation; the ſecond, an impediment to the paſſage of the excrements into the Gut; from whence it neceſſarily follows, that the excrements will be thrown up by the Mouth, if the return of the Gut into the Belly be not procured.

Tho' ſometimes it happens, that it is not above five or ſix hours before the excrements return by the mouth; yet this is not ſo commonly the caſe: the vomiting comes on, for the moſt part, on the 3d or 4th day, ſometimes not till after 8, 9, and 10 days, but the Patients are afflicted with ſuch Symptoms, which preceding the vomiting, declare and characterize the Strangulation of the Gut ſo diſtinctly, that every one who will but attend, can never miſtake the caſe.

Here follows the detail of the ſymptoms.

FIRST, The Rupture grows bigger than ordinary.

SECONDLY, Cauſes much pain.

THIRDLY, Baffles all attempts to return it into the Belly.

FOURTHLY, The pain extends quite round the Navel, if the Rupture be in the bending of the thigh; if in the Navel, the pain, beginning there, extends themſelves to the Groin.

FIFTHLY, The diſorder called gripes hold only for ſome minutes; but recurs from time to time, and the pains they cauſe, are continually increaſing.

SIXTHLY, Upon theſe gripings comes wind, which is plentifully diſcharged by the mouth; the Patient cannot diſcharge it by the fundament, notwithſtanding all the inclination he ſeems to have to do it by that part.

SEVENTHLY, The Patient is troubled with qualms and reachings which end with ſpueing thick and glutinous ſtuff.

EIGHLHLY,

EIGHTHLY, At laſt the Patient throws up the aliments, then come the excrements, the taſte of which is extremely nauſeous.

During the ſeries and increaſe of the ſymptoms, the Rupture ſwells, the Belly grows hard, and very big, a fever comes on, and heightens more and more.

But, on the cloſe of the diſtemper, the vomitings ſlacken, the Patient is afflicted with hiccups, the Belly ſubſides, and becomes inſenſible, the Rupture turns ſoft and livid; the ſight fails; the pulſe grows intermitting and languiſhing, at length is totally loſt; and the patient dies for want of having known the means of guarding againſt a death he might have avoided.

ADHESIONS, Ruptures are, beſides, ſubject to another accident, called adheſion; 'tis a union, which is made between the parts coming out of the Belly and thoſe without it, as the fat and the ſkin, *&c.* The parts which are fixed out of the Belly, can no longer return into it, without a particular ſkill of a Surgeon.

But how ſhould we avoid a danger unknown, how guard againſt theſe ſymptoms, if we are uninſtructed about them? is it poſſible this may be done by reading only? Yes, and for that purpoſe I'll deſcribe each kind of Ruptures in particular; after which I ſhall communicate the means to guard againſt, and remedy them.

CHAP V.

Of the Ruptures of the Navel.

EXPLANATION OF THE PART. THE Navel, is a hole deſtined to give paſſage into the Belly of the infant, during its ſtay in the mother's Womb,

to

to what we call the Navel's ſtring. It conſiſts of three ſorts of veſſels; namely, a Vein, two Arteries, and a canal called Urachus: this ſtring is a continuation of the veſſels which form the after-birth, which after-birth adheres to the bottom of the Womb. By means of the Vein, which is a part of this ſtring, the blood is conveyed from the mother to the child, for its nouriſhment and growth: and the Blood returns back to the mother by the intervention of the two Arteries.

The Urachus is a canal coming from the Bladder of the Child, for diſcharging the urine, conveying it into the Blood of the mother. When the child is come into the world, this ſtring is tied up with a thread, and cut of, to prevent the flux of the blood of the child; ſo that the hole of the Navel is filled by the navel-ſtring, yet imperfectly enough, as it afterwards comes to ſhrivel and dry.

CHARACTER OF THE DISEASE. When we happen at any time to ſtrain much, the Gut or the Caul eaſily comes out by the hole of the Navel, becauſe a leſs degree of reſiſtance is found there than any where elſe.

DIFFERENCES AND CAUSES. The Ruptures of the Navel are not only formed at the hole itſelf of the Navel, but ſome more commonly happen at the circumference of this hole, becauſe theſe parts are very weak, and eaſily dilated by any violent efforts, or gentler efforts often reiterated. Women are very ſubject to this kind of Rupture. The reaſon is, that, in pregnancy, the Belly is extremely extended, the hole of the Navel enlarged more than in the natural ſtate, or that its circumference yields and gives way more eaſily than all the other parts; becauſe, (as was ſaid,) the circumference of the Navel is weaker than the Navel itſelf.

DIAGNOSTIC SIGNS. The ſwelling and elevation of this part is the characteriſtical mark of the Rupture,

ture, eſpecially if this ſwelling diſappears when in bed, or when preſſed with the fingers.

PROGNOSTIC SIGNS. In general this kind of Ruptures is very difficult to cure: the ſmall ones, and recent, are more dangerous than thoſe of a longer ſtanding; but thoſe of a longer ſtanding are more difficult to cure. Theſe diſeaſes are very dangerous in children; but more eaſily cured than in perſons in an advanced age.

SYMPTOMS. The ſymptoms of Ruptures of the Navel are the ſame, in general, with thoſe of all others. One, peculiar to and common in them, is a kind of ſlight colic, more troubleſome than painful, which the Patients are inceſſantly afflicted with when up, and which encreaſes after eating.

CURE. The art of Surgery affords three different means of cure for this kind of Rupture. The firſt is what is called the palliative; the ſecond, the radical; and the third, is the means of remedying the ſymptoms.

THE PALLIATIVE CURE is nothing more than preventing the deadly accident of ſtrangulation *, by keeping the parts in the Belly by Bandages called Truſſes, which exactly cloſe up the hole, at which the parts come out, and hinder their coming out when once returned into the Belly. This method of cure ſuits the Ruptures accompanied with inconveniences, which oppoſe their radical cure, as thoſe of too old a ſtanding, thoſe of too conſiderable a bulk, and thoſe happening to Women who are ſubject to have Children.

THE RADICAL CURE is the removal of the diſtemper, or rather the cauſe of it ſo as to prevent its return. See chap xiv.

* See chap. xiv.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

Of the Rupture of the groin.

EXPLANATION OF THE PART. THE Author of Nature has ſo diſpoſed the Belly, that there are two holes, which anſwer to the parts, called the Groin. Theſe holes are deſtined to give paſſage from the Belly on each ſide in men to the veſſels of the Teſticles, in Women to a ſort of round ſtring, called, from its figure, the round ligament of the Womb; it ſerves to keep that part in its place. The holes, thro' which theſe ligaments paſs, are, from their figure, which is nearly round, called rings. In the natural ſtate, theſe holes are filled by the parts which paſs thro' them; but upon violent ſtrainings, they enlarge gradually, and at laſt give paſſage to the Gut or Caul, or to both together, out of the Belly, and ſuffer them to form the Ruptures of the Groin, called from their ſituations inguinal Ruptures.

DIFFERENCES. The Ruptures of the Groin are different, and have different appellations according to the place they occupy. Some remain in the bending of the Groin; theſe we call incompleat; others deſcend to the ſack in men, or to the great lips of the private parts in Women; and theſe are called compleat.

CAUSES. The particular cauſe of inguinal Ruptures proceeds from the rings being ſituated in the loweſt part of the Belly, which ate continually relaxed by a certain quantity of water found at the bottom of the Belly: if, then, the determining cauſes come to act, theſe parts being naturally opened, and ſituated in the loweſt part of the Belly, the Guts or the Caul inſinuate themſelves eaſily into them.

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The determining cauſes are, loud Crying, Leaping, Strainings to Cough, at Stool, in Child-Bed, *&c.*

The neglect of remedying the incomplete Rupture of the groin is the moſt immediate cauſe of the complete Rupture; for if its progreſs be not ſtopp'd by Truſſes, it is natural to think that it muſt daily encreaſe more and more, and arrive at that pitch, that all the Guts will come down into the great Lips in Women, and into the Bag in Men. Nothing is more common than ſuch ſort of Ruptures. They are ſometimes of the bigneſs and often bigger than one's head*, hanging down to the middle of the thighs.

SYMPTOMS. The contents of the Belly being thus diſplaced, the whole is put into great diſorder; for the Guts can't come down ſo low, but the Stomach muſt at the ſame time be dragged down and diſplaced; as the Gut is a continuation of the Stomach; it muſt then very imperfectly perform it's digeſtions: the Patients are afflicted with windy Cholics; the twitchings, to which the Guts, the Stomach, and other parts contained in the Belly, are ſubject, cauſe almoſt continual Gnawings, which are improperly aſcribed to the cravings of hunger.

It rarely happens, that theſe large Ruptures are ſubject to ſtrangulation; but ſhould that happen, it is ever with the moſt imminent danger.

The incompleat Ruptures are rarely ſubject to the ſymptoms above deſcribed, yet more than the others are ſubject to ſtrangulation; becauſe the rings, not having loſt their ſpring, as in complete Ruptures, are more diſpoſed to make an impreſſion upon the parts, and hinder their return, which conſtitutes the ſtrangulation. It is, beſides, true, that it is eaſier to guard againſt their ſtrangulation, becauſe it is eaſier to keep them in with Truſſes.

* See the above quoted obſervation.

DIAGNOSTIC SIGNS. The incomplete Rupture of the Groin is diſtinguiſhed by its facility of coming out and returning again, when not adherent, and by the ſigns of the complete Rupture.

The complete Rupture is alſo diſtinguiſhed by its facility of returning again, when not adherent: If adherent, that is, if attached to the exterior parts, and formed of the Gut, we feel in it a certain degree of elaſticity, like that which is felt on compreſſing a bladder not quite full of water: If the Rupture be formed of the Caul, on the touch we perceive a ſoftneſs, like that we feel in handling a piece of tripe. If the Rupture conſiſts of both theſe parts, the ſigns are mixt; we feel in handling the tumor, that elaſticity, and at the ſame time, that ſoftneſs juſt now mentioned.

PRUGNOSTIC SIGNS. We may affirm of the Ruptures of the Groin, that the incomplete are more dangerous than the complete, and yet of more eaſy cure: for tho' in the complete, the parts are more conſiderably diſplaced; yet the hole of the ring being larger, they are leſs ſubject to Strangulation.

CURE. The Ruptures of the Groin are ſuſceptible of three different methods of cure; of which I ſhall ſpeak hereafter, *viz.* the palliative, the rad cal, and of that which conſiſts in removing their ſymptoms.

CHAP. VII.

Of the Femoral Ruptures.

EXPLANATION OF THE PART. IN the bending of the Thigh, juſt in the middle, under the ſkin and the fat, there is an opening, this opening; which is called the femoral Arch, has nearly the figure of a ſmall

a ſmall Arch. It ſerves to give paſſage out of the Belly to the Veſſels which carry the Blood for the nouriſhment of the Thigh, the Leg, and the Foot, and to thoſe which reconvey it from theſe parts. Theſe Veſſels are called femoral, and from thence the Rupture made by this hole is alſo called femoral.

This ſpecies of Rupture happens more commonly to Women who have had children than to others.

DIFFERENCES. The femoral Ruptures differ only in bulk or ſize: the biggeſt do not exceed a hen's egg, but generally they are much leſs.

CAUSES. The increaſe of the volume or bulk of the Womb, in proportion as the Woman advances in her pregnancy, is the particular cauſe of that kind of Rupture, the Guts then bearing with more weight and preſſure on the ſides of the Belly that an other times: and as in this caſe, the muſcles are ſtretched much, and the openings, called Arches, are more opened, the Guts or the Caul eſcape more eaſily at theſe openings, by the great ſtrainings of Women with Child in the act of Coughing, at ſtool, or in labour.

SYMPTOMS. They are very ſubject to adheſions on account of the continual rubbings or colliſions they undergoe in the motion of the Thigh. Truſſes being ill-made, contribute thereto very much: they are alſo very often ſubject to Strangulation.

DIAGNOSTIC SIGNS. The diagnoſtic ſigns of this ſpecies of Rupture are the ſame with thoſe of the incomplete Rupture of the Groin: the ſituation beſpeaks its ſpecies, with reſpect to the place it occupies.

PROGNOSTIC SIGNS. The femoral Rupture is very dangerous, from the difficulty there is of reducing it into the Belly: in caſe of a Strangulation, the operation is much more dangerous. The radical cure of it is very difficult to effect; nor is it an eaſy matter to keep it in with Truſſes; unleſs they are

made with much care and judgment; ſo that I affirm in general, that this kind of Rupture is very dangerous.

CHAP. VIII.

Of the ventral Rupture.

WHAT THE BELLY IS

THE Belly conſiſts of ſoft parts, which are the Skin, the Fat, and the Muſcles. By Muſcles we underſtand thoſe parts of animals, which are known by the name of fleſh, conſiſting of red fibres or ſtrings, which eaſily ſeparate, when the meat or fleſh is boiled. Theſe ſtrings are joined to each other by other ſmaller ſtrings of another kind, and which are ſo fine and delicate, that the ſight ſcarce diſcerns them. It is eaſy to conceive that theſe fleſhy ſtrings may divide and ſeparate from each other, by frequent ſtrainings, and that the opening, which this diviſion forms, may give paſſage out of the Belly to the Guts and Caul with as much eaſe as the natural holes, of which we have already ſpoke. Theſe ſorts of Ruptures, which may be thus formed, in all the extent of the Belly, are called ventral.

DIFFERENCES. The different places of the Belly, where theſe Ruptures happen, characterize their difference; for ſome of them may happen about the Navel; others below; others again on the ſides of the Belly. In fine, they may happen in all the parts of its ſurface, and they ever are Ruptures of the belly, otherwiſe called ventral Ruptures. All of them may be produced by the Gut or Caul, or by both together.

CAUSES

CAUSES. The great extenſions the Muſcles are expoſed to in Pregnancy, and in the Dropſy, are the proximate and moſt common cauſes of theſe ſpecies of Ruptures: yet violent ſtrainings alſo may give occaſion to them.

SYMPTOMS. Of all the kinds of Ruptures there is none that fatigues and ſpends the Patients more; becauſe in theſe caſes there is an extreme relaxation of almoſt all the parts of the Belly. The continual twitchings the Patients are expoſed to, incapacitate them to walk; they are ever complaining of weakneſſes and ſinkings, eſpecially after meals, which allow them no other poſture but that of ſitting or lying down. Theſe Ruptures alſo are ſubject to Strangulation and adheſions.

DIAGNOSTIC SIGNS. The ventral Ruptures are known by their ſoftneſs, their elaſticity, and the facility with which they come out of the Belly, and are again returned, eſpecially at their beginning.

PROGNOSTIC SIGNS. Theſe ſpecies of Ruptures are incurable. They are not ſo ſubject to Strangulation as other Ruptures, but ſhould it happen to them, it is highly difficult to put them into its own place but by cutting the Strangulating part; theſe ſorts of Ruptures are then very dangerous.

CURE. The palliative cure is the only one that ſuits here, ſuch is the proper application of Truſſes; but it is always attended with more difficulty than in any other eaſes: And I may without preſumption affirm, that no one, beſides myſelf, has hitherto found out ſo commodious, and ſure means of keeping in theſe Ruptures ſo as to prevent their coming out again in what ſituation or poſition ſoever the Patients are put.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

Of the means of remedying the Strangulation.

WHAT STRANGULATION IS. THE Strangulation, as was ſaid in chap. iv. is ſo conſiderable a ſtraitning of the Gut, formed by the conſtriction of the parts thro' which it comes out of the Belly, that its return, without proper management, is very often impoſſible. In this caſe we ſee, that it muſt be expoſed to all the ſymptoms, of which I have given a detail in the ſame chapter, and of what importance it is to remedy it ſpeedily.

THREE MEANS TO BE USED. The ſtrangulation is remedied by three means. The firſt conſiſts in the ſituation, in which the Patient ſhould remain. The ſecond, in the uſe of proper remedies. The third, in replacing the Gut.

FIRST MEANS. In the Strangulation of any ſpecies of Rupture whatever, we muſt procure to the parts, which are too much extended, a ſuitable relaxation, in order to leſſen the ſtraitning of the Gut. The Patient then ſhould be laid upon his Back, the Buttocks and Breaſt be raiſed by means of Pillows; by this ſituation the exterior parts of the Belly are leſs extended, and the ruptured Guts are made to have a greater tendency to return.

SECOND MEANS. The Patient being in this ſituation, the ſuitable remedies muſt be forthwith uſed, and thoſe proper to promote the reduction of the parts. Each country, each Practitioner, has his peculiar remedies; but as ſome of them are approved by all the people of the profeſſion, and every-where to be met with; 'tis on ſuch I ſhall inſiſt, to the end that the inſtructed Patients may uſe them directly

rectly, till they can have recourſe to the aid of their Surgeon. The coldeſt and the hardeſt water, as that of a pump. thrown immediately upon the Rupture, is the moſt efficacious remedy, and which ought to be uſed in the very firſt appearance of the diſeaſe, if the Patient being laid on a bed, and we are apprehenſive of wetting it, it will be ſufficient to dip rags in this water, and apply them on the affected part, ſhifting them every minute; to this water may be added half the quantity of vinegar. It is to be obſerved, that this remedy, which is the moſt ſovereign of all thoſe we are going to preſcribe, would prove highly dangerous, if not uſed, at the very beginning; becauſe after that, it diſpoſes the Guts to a gangrene; but being properly applied, it promotes the return of the Gut with as much eaſe as the moſt dextrous hand, and the moſt accuſtomed to this operation.

If theſe remedies have not been applied, for want of being able to ſeize on the critical moment, the Patient muſt be blooded directly, and that till he faints away, and the Surgeon ſhould improve the moment of the ſwooning (during which all the parts are in a ſtate of relaxation) to undevour the return of the Rupture.

But if it happen that this method ſhould not ſucceed, either thro' the diſpoſition of the Patient, or the little experience of the Surgeon; then we muſt apply to the Rupture the Remedies capable of relaxing the ſtrangulating parts. Nothing is more fitted to produce this effect than the crum of bread Boiled in water or milk; we may add to it oil or Hog's lard, this poultice is wrapped up in a ſmall bagg of fine cloth: but we may here ſtill more uſefully employ warm milk put into a Hog's Bladder, and applied on the ailing part. Theſe applications ſhould be ſhifted every three hours, and during the uſe

of

of them, the Surgeon muſt take from the Patient eight or ten ounces of Blood every two hours.

Whilſt we thus labour to procure the relaxation of the parts which ſtrangle the Gut, we muſt endeavour to diſcharge the matter which may be evacuated from the Guts, which may be done by means of ſmall gliſters of river water, in which has been boiled wheat-bran, and into which is put a large-ſpoonful of ſugar or common ſalt; by thus emptying the Guts, we alſo procure a relaxation to the exterior parts, by bathing and moiſtening them.

If theſe remedies prove ineffectual for two days, the aſſiſtant ought not to heſitate a moment to call ſome able Surgeon, who is to act in conſequence of the violence of the ſymptoms; (for then they heighten more and more) whilſt the nurſe waits for his coming ſhe muſt apply a poultice made of crum of bread boiled in red wine.

In all caſes, wherein crum of bread is uſed, it muſt be crumbled very fine and ſmooth.

REGIMEN. During the courſe of the diſeaſe, the Patients muſt have no nouriſhment, becauſe they throw up all they take, and conſequently are poiſon to them; which excites the vomiting coming on but too often.

THIRD MEANS. The replacing the parts, which is called reduction, is an operation of the hand, which conſiſts in procuring the return, into the Belly, of the Gut or Caul.

It is very difficult to give rules for the manner of performing this operation; beſides, as it only concerns the Gentlemen of the Faculty, I forbear ſpeaking of it here: ſuch as are curions of knowing the general rules, which may be given of it, may conſult my book, Chap. XIII. Sect. II. Part 1. It is enough for the Patients to know that they ought not to quit their bed, after the reduction of the parts, before they are guarded with a machine called a Truſs

to

to ſtop up the hole thro' which the Guts or Caul were come out, and to prevent this accident from happening again. As life depends on theſe machines, properly conſtructed, and as Patients are incapable of judging of their defects, I ſhall in the following chapter give the exacteſt rules poſſible in order to judge of their good or ill conſtruction, and thereby enable the Patients themſelves to determine about the advantages which may reſult from Truſſes well or ill made.

CHAP. X.

Of Truſſes proper for different kinds of Ruptures.

WHAT A TRUSS IS. A Truſs is a ſolid Band made in form of a circle, applied round the Body to prevent the iſſuing forth of the Inteſtines.

THE MATTER OF TRUSSES. The matter of which Truſſes are made, is a compoſition of Iron and Steel forged together ſo as to acquire a ſolid conſiſtence, elaſtic and incapable of warping: This laſt matter ſhould only make a third, a half, or two thirds of the Truſs, the reſt to be of leather, the whole lined with Cloth proper to guard againſt the hardneſs of the Iron work

THE PARTS OF THE TRUSS. It is neceſſary to know the parts of the Truſs before we learn to make the proper application of it, or determine its poſition. Three principal parts are to be obſerved in the Iron work of the Truſs; the plate, the circle, and the tail. The plate is the anterior extremity, deſtined to faſten a cuſhion, which ought to ſtop up the hole of the Belly; on the outſide of this plate is a hook to fix the Truſs by faſtening the leathern Girdle: The circle is the part extending from the plate as far as

to the tail; the tail is the poſterior extremity of the Iron work, to which is faſtened the Leathern Girdle. The plate or the cuſhion is alſo called the point of compreſſion; the tail the point of ſupport.

THE CONDITIONS OF THE TRUSS. The Iron work ſhould be adjuſted ſo as to fit exactly quite round the Body, or otherwiſe it would be apt to bear falſe, or warp, gall the Patient, and never cloſe up the hole exactly, the Rupture be apt to fall out, the cuſhion of the Truſs would gall, and give occaſion to the adheſion, an untoward ſymptom, of which we have ſpoke in chap. iv.

TRUSS OF STEEL. The Truſs of Steel is the only one which can be applied round the Body, without being ſubject to any variation or warping, its turn or rounding being well moulded to the ſhape of the Body for which it is made, renders it firm, invariable and incapable of ſhifting place, in what fituation ſoever the Patients put themſelves.

SPRING-TRUSS Some workmen have imagined that they give a great degree of perfection to the Truſs by adding to the cuſhion a ſpring to make it bear downwards, without conſidering that if the compreſſion be greater in the lower part, it is leſs in the upper, where the Rupture takes a new courſe, and now and then comes out.

JOINT-TRUSSES. Others have deviſed a joint-Truſs, the uſe of which is pernicious; for the Truſs, which ſhould remain firm upon the Body in the different motions of the Patients, cannot poſſibly do ſo, its joints ſuffering it to open and cloſe according to the motions of the Patients.

ELASTIC TRUSSES. Many more advantages were imagined to be found in ſome Truſſes, to which ſome people have given the name of *Elaſtic Truſſes of a new invention*; this elaſtic virtue which conſtitutes their merit is verya dvantageous when this ſort of Truſs is executed by an intelligent hand, who knows how to give the

the degree of turn or rounding proportioned to the ſhape of the Body, on which it is to be applied, a thing extremely difficult; for otherwiſe it ever bears falſe, Galls the Patient, neither does it reſtrain the Rupture.

TRUSS WITHOUT STEEL. The Truſs without Steel has very dangerous circumſtances attending it; and I cannot too much caution Patients againſt a Machine, which may eaſily miſlead, from the notion of reſtraint and pain at firſt excited in the mind by the idea of Steel, which enters into the compoſition of other Truſſes; but if they conſider that the Cuſhion of the Truſs without Steel has no fixed point to render it immoveable, they will eaſily underſtand that it cannot effect an exact compreſſion on the hole of the Rupture, but when the Patient is in bed, and then moſt Patients being able to do without a Truſs, this ſort becomes uſeleſs, and proves dangerous in all other ſituations, as it cannot prevent the exit of the Rupture.

Therefore I conclude from what I have ſaid on the ſubject of Truſſes that Steel Truſſes, when methodically made (that is to ſay according to the nature and ſpecies of the malady and rounded to the ſhape and ſtructure of the Bodies on which they are to be applied) are by far beſt adapted to anſwer the deſire of the Patient and the deſign of the Surgeon. But it is not enough that Patients have Truſſes properly conſtructed for them, they ſhould alſo be inſtructed how to uſe them in the moſt advantageous manner, I ſhall therefore, in the following chapter, deſcribe the inconveniences which may happen upon the uſe of theſe Machines.

CHAP. XI.

Of the inconveniences which may happen during the uſe of Truſſes.

THREE GENERAL INCONVENIENCIES. PATIENTS who are inattentive to their diſorders may loſe all the benefit they might otherwiſe expect from the uſe of Truſſes when conſtructed according to the rules of art, from the following particulars, either from the Diſeaſe itſelf, from the Patient, or from the Truſs.

INCONVENIENCIES CHARGEABLE TO THE SCORE OF THE DISEASE. Ruptures of the Caul are very hard to keep in the Belly, on account of its being all fat, and conſequently very ſlippery; they increaſe if in the leaſt neglected; the Patient ſhould therefore wear his Truſs Night and Day, and tighter than in Ruptures of the Gut.

Sometimes the Rupture is found to conſiſt of the Gut and Caul together, and it may happen that in this caſe the Gut enters into the Belly, and the Caul remains out, without being able to return on account of ſome adheſions which reſtrain it; the Patient ought not therefore to go without the Truſs, except in ſome very particular caſes, as it is neceſſary to prevent the coming forth of the Gut. Art then directs to make a Truſs that ſhall cloſe the hole ſo as to hinder the Gut from coming out, yet not over-compreſs the Caul, for fear of cauſing ſome alteration therein.

INCONVENIENCIES TO BE LAID TO THE ACCOUNT OF THE PATIENTS. The two extremes of being too thin or too fat are inconveniencies on the part of the Patient, which oppoſe the ſtability of the Truſs,

and

and make the uſe of it always difficult unleſs the Surgeon and the Patient, each on their part, give all the attention neceſſary.

In extreme leanneſs, the Bones having little more than the Skin to cover them, and theſe Bones themſelves forming eminencies and pits, a Surgeon the moſt verſed in making of Truſſes, muſt miſcarry, if he does not employ all his care to give them the ſhape proportioned to that of the Bones; but the Patients, on their part alſo, ought to apply all their care to keep them in place, as we ſhall ſee in chap. XIII.

In extreme corpulency, the too great Quantity of fat gives the hips a deformity ſo contrary to the natural ſtate, that the turn of the Truſs ſhould alſo be very different from what is aſſigned it in a moderate corpulency. And it is very difficult for the Truſs to to be capable of producing the effect expected from it, if the Patient himſelf favour not the intentions, and be not careful to tighten it from time to time.

THE difficulty of making Truſſes for Ruptures of the Navel, frequently ariſes from the Belly being more or leſs prominent, more or leſs thin, hard or ſoft, according to the greater or leſs degree of relaxation of the ſkin, of the Fat, and the Muſcles; conſequently the Truſſes for theſe ſorts of Ruptures want to be as differently conſtructed as the ſhapes of Bellies differ; for if the Belly terminate in a conical figure towards the Navel, the point of compreſſion eaſily varies; if the Navel be found lower than the Hips, the point of ſupport or bearing is very difficult to find; if the Belly be bigger above the Navel than below it, the Truſs tends to fall down below the Rupture: All theſe differences call for different degrees of attention in the making of Truſſes, none of which, in theſe caſes, are capable of remaining in their proper places, but thoſe of my own in-

invention, of which I ſhall ſpeak at the cloſe of this Chapter.

The more the Truſs is apt to vary or ſhift, the greater degree of conſtancy is required of the Patient, to give it time to fix or ſettle, and the Surgeon, on his part, ſhould endeavour to mould and fit it to the Body of the Patient by degrees. In perſons extremely thin, we muſt not at firſt tighten it to the higheſt pitch, the uſe of it would then prove diſcouraging and inſupportable, the parts therefore muſt by degrees be made accuſtomed to its impreſſions. In perſons extremely fat, the ſame precautions muſt be uſed, becauſe the fat can ſubſide but by little and little under the Truſs; and therefore it muſt be tightened but in proportion as it ſinks in the thickneſs of the fat, without which it would become too wide: theſe degrees of attention ſhould then be divided between the Patient and the Surgeon, till the Truſs has acquired a firm and invariable ſituation, the Patient continuing to wear it night and day, till he is accuſtomed to it. When Ruptures have a great facility of coming out, as thoſe of the Caul, every violent motion ſhould be avoided as much as poſſible, as ſtriding, raiſing the arms too high, and ſneezing &c; finally, if the Belly be bound, the Patient is obliged to ſtrain much at ſtool, and then it is proper to procure an open Belly by means of clyſters, or to make him ſwallow a little purging electuary; but if, notwithſtanding this, he cannot avoid ſtraining, let him then reſt his hand on the upper part of the plate of his Truſs, to prevent its aſcending; and this he is to do every time he ſneezes or coughs or blows his Noſe: becauſe in theſe violent motions the cuſhion of the Truſs is always determined or apt to aſcend, and then the hole it ſhould ſtop is found a little uncovered: By all theſe attentions the parts will be gradually accuſtomed to remain in the Belly,

the

the Patients being in bed, may then, but not before, pull off their Truſſes at night with ſafety.

INCONVENIENCIES ON THE PART OF THE TRUSS. As I have juſt ſaid that Truſſes ſhould be gradually moulded to the Bodies of the Patients; as they are then of themſelves ſubject to ſome variations, they muſt neceſſarily be remedied, in order to procure them the utmoſt degree of perfection: this perfection conſiſts, as I have already ſaid, in the juſt turning or rounding, and exactly proportioning the Truſs to the parts to which it is to be applied; for if it bears falſe, I mean, if it bears on one part more than on another of the circumference of the Belly, it cannot fail to gall, and the point of compreſſion will be vicious and irregular; beſides, this defect makes it ſubject to break in the part where is the void or hollow; this defect is not always perceivable at the very firſt time it is applied, becauſe the covering, which is new and prominent, conceals its hollows, but after having been wore for ſome days, the covering flattens; the fat, which is under the girdle, ſubſides; the leather, which forms the reſt of the circle, lengthens, and the Truſs no longer compreſſes in any part of the circumference of the Hips, unleſs in the part which bears falſe. This inconvenience, which is conſiderable, is eaſily amended, when Patients come to be well acquainted with the manner of ordering theſe machines: But one defect common to all Truſſes made for Ruptures of the Groin, and thoſe of the bendings of the Thighs, and for which no one before myſelf was ever able to find a remedy, is that they bear leſs on the opening, which they ought to ſtop, when the Patient happens to ſit very low, becauſe then the Belly ſinks; this defect ſtands corrected in the Truſſes of my invention, to ſo conſiderable a degree of perfection, that Patients are always ſurpriſed at not finding that inconveniency, after having uſed the common Truſſes. This grand inconveniency owing to a defect never before ſupplied

was the reaſon why Patients were always directed to ſit upon a high ſeat; but the impoſſibility of this is ſelf evident unleſs a perſon could always have his own ſeat with him wherever his buſineſs might call him. This defect is likewiſe very conſpicuous in other inſtances, as in very thin perſons, when in bed; the cuſhions of common Truſſes never bear on the hole in fat perſons, in thoſe of a reaſonable good plight of Body, in like manner as in the thin: the ſame thing is alſo to be found, when they ſneeze, blow their noſe, cough, or are at ſtool, and all the means propoſed to remedy this inconveniency, are as embarraſſing as uſeleſs, and in no manner come up to the ſimplicity of my Truſs, in which there is found none of theſe inconveniencies. I take the opportunity in this place to mention a diſcovery which my ſincere deſire of being as extenſively uſeful as poſſible forbids me to conceal, and which, if properly attended to, may ſave the lives of many, both Women and Children. 'Tis eaſy to ſee from this that I refer to thoſe frequent miſcarriages, ſo dreadful in their conſequences, and to which the tender and delicate of that ſex are ſo very much expoſed.

The moſt common cauſe of miſcarriages is the ſame with that of Ruptures; it ariſes from the relaxation of all parts of the Belly, both internal and external, occaſioned by a too great quantity of ſeroſities, which water the ligaments, deſigned by nature to keep in place each of the parts contained in the Belly. Now the ligaments of the Womb are ſo often relaxed by ſeroſities abounding in the blood, that that part remaining unſupported, on account of the weakneſs of its ligaments, it is impoſſible the Child ſhould come to its full time, becauſe it determines by it's weight the Womb to remain in the loweſt parts of the Belly, and not finding there ſufficient room to grow, dies thro' the conſtraint it undergoes.

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The method which I have found to remedy theſe troubleſome and dreadful diſorders is as eaſy as the following reaſoning, which I uſe to prove its efficacy. The ligaments of the Womb, and the muſcles of the Belly being, as was before obſerved, too much relaxed, the growth of the child is prevented, becauſe the Womb tends too much towards the loweſt part of the Belly, where it is ſtraitened for room, the muſcles of the Belly not being ſtrong enough to ſupport it forwards: If by the means of a Truſs ſufficient to balance the relaxation of theſe parts, that defect may be ſupplied, it is not to be doubted but that Women ſubject to miſcarriages will happily go their full time: The experience of upwards of a hundred Women, whom I have treated in this manner, proves it; having often miſcarried before the uſe of my Truſs.

It is made of a flexible matter without any iron-work at all, but ſtrong enough to reſiſt the weight of the Belly. It ſtretches in proportion to the growth of the child; nothing is more eaſy to apply and to wear; it renders pregnant Women, the moſt ſubject to miſcarriages, in a condition either to walk or ride, and it becomes ſo commodious to them, by giving a degree of firmneſs to the whole Body, that many Women uſe it out of the time of their pregnancy. It proves alſo highly uſeful to Women, whoſe Bellies, being very heavy and pendulous, hinder them from walking; and to perſons to whom it is not poſſible to apply the common Truſſes for the Navel.

CHAP. XII.

Directions for Perſons at a diſtance how to take meaſure of themſelves for Truſſes, and other neceſſary Inſtructions.

MEASURES TAKEN. MANY Perſons, who are perhaps inclined to procure Truſſes for themſelves, not living near Places, where theſe Machines are commonly made, have need of inſtructions to enable them to ſend their exact meaſure; this I ſhall now do, and inſiſt alſo on ſome very material circumſtances ſuch ought to obſerve in relation to the different ſpecies of Ruptures.

FIRST, The Patient ſhould give a particular account of his conſtitution and age; whether married or unmarried; the exact time, if poſſible, when the diſorder happened; and whether the place he lives in be moiſt and marſhy, or dry.

SECONDLY, He ſhould, as much as may be, recollect the cauſe, which has occaſioned the Rupture, whether a blow, a fall, a fit of coughing, ſtraining or, if the other ſex, by child-bearing.

THIRDLY, He muſt determine nearly the ſize of the Rupture, and on what ſide it lies.

FOURTHLY, He muſt ſet down preciſely its place, if in the Groin, or Bending of the Thigh.

FIFTHLY, Whether or no it re-enters, and whether, in re-entring, if it returns more difficultly in a ſtanding than lying poſture.

SIXTHLY, When the Rupture is in the bending of the Groin, it is neceſſary to diſtinguiſh whether it deſcends as low as the ſide of the private parts.

SEVENTHLY, If it is in the bending of the Thigh, it is neceſſary to ſpecify, whether it be round or long.

EIGHTH-

EIGHTHLY, If there are two Ruptures, it is neceſſary to hint which is the biggeſt.

NINTHLY, It muſt be remarked, whether the Perſon be fat or lean, or only in a tolerable good plight of Body.

TENTHLY, It muſt be hinted, whether the Patient has one hip bigger than the other, which is a very common caſe; or if there be any other deformity, it is neceſſary not to fail deſcribing it, and ſetting down its place with ink upon the meaſure.

To this the Patient ſhould add the meaſure of his Body, taken with a ſlip of paper of a proper length. Whether the Rupture be ſingle or double, in the Groin, or Bending of the Thigh, it is ſufficient to lay the middle of the ſlip of paper immediately over the part where the clift of the breech ends, and to join the two ends of the paper above the place where the top of the private parts unite.

If it be a Rupture of the Navel, the meaſure of the Belly muſt be taken in the ſame manner, by laying it round the Belly, and joining the two ends of it upon the Rupture.

Care alſo ſhould be taken to ſpecify, 1st. The part of the Navel the Rupture occupies, whether the middle or its circumference, whether above or below it, or on one ſide. 2d. If it is of an old or recent ſtanding. 3d. Its ſize. 4th. Its ſhape. 5th, If it re-enters or not into the Belly when the Patient is in Bed. 6th, If the Navel be higher or lower than the bone of the Hips. 7th. If the Belly be hard or ſoft; 'tis moreover neceſſary to know, if the Patient is a Woman, whether ſhe has had children, and how many. Fat and corpulent Women who have bore ſeveral Children, generally have hanging Bellies, and the Navel hangs lower in them than the upper part of the Hips.

All thoſe particulars are very neceſſary to be mentioned, in order to execute with care the Truſſes pro-

per in each of theſe circumſtances, and to render them as commodious as uſeful, if Patients on their part will uſe the neceſſary care in their juſt application: on this head I ſhall preſcribe ſome rules in the following chapter.

CHAP. XIII.

Of the Manner of putting on the Truſſes; neceſſary precautions to be obſerved, previous to the laying or adjuſting them.

MANNER OF PUTTING ON TRUSSES. AS the Truſs will become abſolutely unſerviceable, if it is improperly applied; it is, therefore, of great importance to Patients, to have rules to follow for their juſt application. Theſe rules are the ſame for Perſons of what age ſoever, even for Children at the breaſt.

The uſe of the Truſs is to ſtop the hole, at which the Rupture comes out, in order to prevent it; we muſt for that purpoſe begin with reducing it back into the Belly.

Ruptures unaccompanied with adheſion or ſtrangulation re-enter commonly with facility of themſelves, when Patients are in bed; conſequently, the morning, at the hour of getting up, is the time to apply the Truſs. To do it with eaſe, of what kind, or in what part ſoever the Rupture be, the Patient muſt paſs the girdle below the back, and place with one hand the cuſhion of the Truſs over-againſt the part of the Rupture; with the other he examines whether any thing remains out of the Belly; afterwards, laying hold with this laſt hand on the girdle of the Truſs, he pulls it to himſelf towards the cuſhion, whilſt with the other he fixes the cuſhion directly upon the part

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where the Rupture appeared before reduction; he at the ſame time faſtens the girdle to the hook, which is on the outſide of the cuſhion.

To procure the proper poſition to the Truſs, the lower border of the girdle ſhould be behind the back, immediately above the clift of the breech. When the Patient is ſure it has gained its due poſition, he muſt then tighten it ſufficiently: for this purpoſe he lays hold on the girdle with one hand, at the part where it joins to the iron-work of the Truſs, and pulls it gradually by ſlipping the hand as far as to its extremity; while with the other hand he holds the cuſhion ſteady on the part where it ſhould be placed; if it were not ſupported, it would ſhift to one ſide of the Thigh, and the hole of the Rupture be left uncovered. The Truſs ſhould not be too tight, neither ſhould it be too ſlack. You will obſerve to tighten it from time to time; fat people ſhould particularly mind this, becauſe the longer they uſe the Truſs, the more the fat will ſink under the girdle, and conſequently will become too ſlack; which is the reaſon that the over ſlackening of the girdle is charged on its lengthening: and it alſo happens that the girdle of the Truſs will be hid by the pads which the fat forms both from above and below, when the fat has been entirely flattened under the girdle by its reiterated compreſſions.

Patients in general are very apt to place the cuſhion of their Truſs too low, eſpecially ſuch whoſe Ruptures fall down pretty low, without conſidering, that the buſineſs is only to ſtop the hole, to prevent the parts from coming out; for when the cuſhion is placed too low, the hole remaining unſtopped, the Rupture comes out above the cuſhion of the Truſs.

When Patients are thin, the Truſs is very apt to aſcend, eſpecially when they are in bed: in this caſe, they muſt uſe a ſmall ſtrap, which is fixed to the Truſs;

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they paſs it under the Thigh, and faſten it to the hook, which ſerves to fix the girdle.

When there is a neceſſity of wearing the Truſs in the night, Patients muſt take care to adjuſt, or put it in order before they get out of bed in the morning, and as the motions they give themſelves lower or raiſe it behind, they muſt not fail replacing it in its due poſition, for otherwiſe the cuſhion will not bear exactly upon the hole.

With reſpect to children who are not cleanly, we muſt be careful of ſhifting their Truſſes every day, to prevent the excrements from heating or fretting them.

In plump fat Children, the girdle ſhould behind be a good finger's breadth above the clift of the breech; in the thin, it ſhould immediately touch the clift, or even be a little lower.

We muſt be ever cautious in ſhifting their Truſs, that the Rupture does not fall out again; for this purpoſe, we muſt have ready at hand that which is to replace the other, and lay the finger on the hole, till the ſecond Truſs is applied.

CHAP. XIV.

Of the radical Cure of Ruptures.

RADICAL CURE. BY radical cure we mean ſuch as removes a diſeaſe, or rather the cauſe of it, ſo as to prevent its return. Is this poſſible in Ruptures? It is what I have proved.

But as I ſhould be obliged to tranſcribe word for word what I have at large wrote on this ſubject; ſuch as would ſatisfy themſelves of this truth may conſult my book, chap. xiv. ſect. ii part i.

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All I can ſay to prevail on Patients not to ſuffer themſelves to be diſcouraged, as commonly thoſe are, who are afflicted with theſe diſorders, is, that there are none for which there is a greater variety of remedies known: the only queſtion is to know how to appropriate them to the different conſtitutions of Patients, to their age, their ſex, to the climates they inhabit, and how to diſtinguiſh the ſpecies of Ruptures which are curable from thoſe which are incurable. 'Tis with theſe infirmities as with all others; ſuch a one cannot be cured by a remedy, which ten or a ſcore others have found the good effects of, becauſe the circumſtances differs: this is the reaſon, why the medicines of the good Women do ſometimes much good, but very often a great deal of harm.

CHAP. XV.

In which is deſcribed and expoſed the ignorance and artifice of Quacks.

QUACKERIES DISCOVERED. ALmoſt every ſtation in life is ſubject to Quackeries. Some may, perhaps, be thought ſufferable for the ſake of worldly diſtinctions; but in every branch of the art of healing, they are ſo numerous, ſo bare-faced, and ſo diametrically oppoſite to the good of ſociety, as to become an ablolute nuiſance.

If Quackery was not practiſed in every climate, a Foreigner would infer from News-papers, that the inhabitants of theſe iſlands are immortal. No diſtempers incident to human nature, but they contain ſpec fics for their cure, and what is more extraordinary, vouched by ſolemn oaths, and made pub-

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lie with ſuch a confident air of authenticity, as to make the cure appear almoſt miraculous! nor is it to be doubted, that if ſome Magiſtrates were weak enough to admit of it, oaths of reſurrection from the dead, by means of ſome of theſe Noſtrums, would be taken, and there would be people either credulous, or knaves enough to procure certificates of them, and ready to give the moſt ſerious aſſeverations for the truth of thoſe impoſtures.

That part of ſurgery which reſpects the cure of Ruptures, next to that of the Venereal Diſeaſe, ſupplies the world with Quackery in abundance: the loſs of many valuable lives muſt neceſſarily follow. This unhappineſs is ſupported by the credulity and ignorance of the ſufferers, who place their confidence in the artful deluſions of Mountebanks, or in the confident aſſertions of Bakers, Blackſmiths, Old-Women, &c. Toy-Shop-Medicines alſo, adverti ſed to be prepared by eminent licenced Phyſicians aſſiſt to ſpread the deception. Thus it is that the rational practice of Phyſic and Surgery is diſgraced. What greatly contributes to promote this manner of practice, and indeed gives a kind of ſanction to empyrical tricks is, that even ſome regularly bred Artiſts, for the ſake of gain, publiſh pretended Noſtrums, and ſo ſtrengthen the common error to the great ſcandal of ſuch uſeful and ingenious profeſſions. To ſtop this growing evil, as much as is in my power, I think it my duty to acquaint the candid reader, that although there are few diſorders that have more recommended remedies than for the cure of Ruptures, yet their number is very ſmall comparatively, when ſuch are ſelected as are properly ſuited to the various caſes and different conſtitutions of Patients. See *my Diſſertatation on Ruptures, p.* 160.

The knowledge of a ſkilful Surgeon is not confined to that of the remedies adapted to the ſeveral

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ſtations of the diſeaſe, or variety of the conſtitutions, but enables him to form a judgment of ſuch as are curable from thoſe that are not, and to apply palliatives where Medicines uſed in curable caſes, inſtead of being of ſervice, might injure the Patient. *See p.* 23. This is the diſtinguiſhing Criterion of a Surgeon ſkilful in Hernias.

The Quack, on the contrary, guided by ignorance and ſupported by impudence, boldly attempts all; makes inciſions where he ſhould not, and where inciſions and amputations are abſolutely neceſſary, ſuffers the Patient to languiſh and die, when thoſe methods properly uſed would ſave his life: unſkilled in anatomy he often takes the Teſticle for a Gland, an Abſceſs for a Rupture, and Rupture for an Abſceſs: he ſoon applies deſtructive plaiſters and bandages, which bruiſe the Teſticles, make the Glands carcinomateous, and occaſion Abſceſſes to break within the Belly that ought to be drawn outward, and oftentimes cuts the Gut miſtaking it for an Abſceſs. Authors are full of this kind of examples; the daily papers ſufficiently indicate that truth; and even Tribunals are often the melancholy records of the griefs and complaint of injured Patients appealing there for juſtice: Not withſtanding which theſe abuſes ſtill continue.

What courſe can then be perſued to prevent the diſorders ariſing from ſuch irregularities? The Laws themſelves are not a ſufficient bar againſt this ſpecies of impoſition. People like to be deceived: but ſurely in ſpite of vulgar opinion they ought to be undeceived. Health is too precious to be trifled with; and it would be criminal in thoſe who are capable of detecting ſuch groſs frauds, to let them paſs unnoticed. Nor ſhould they conceal the plain, eaſy, certain, and cheap methods of cure, which ſkilful Surgeons alone are acquainted with.

I hinted in my Obſervations on Aneuriſms, publiſhed in the *Britiſh Magazine of September* 1760, that, of many thouſand perſons of whom I have had

the care for Ruptures, I have cured above two thirds by the uſe of Truſſes only. And I here declare that of the other third part ſcarce one tenth have been cured by internal Medicines, Topics or Operations; for there are Ruptures ſo circumſtanced as not to admit of any cure. Beſides all this; Children are made to ſwallow quantities of aſtringents, which render them coſtive: to remedy this evil purgatives are adminiſtered. Plaiſters are alſo applied to the aggrieved parts, which cauſe eryſipelous inflammations: all this practice does manifeſtly injure their conſtitutions: the Rupture is, however, cured; becauſe the diameter of the gut increaſing, it is prevented from falling through the hole which before admitted its paſſage. Yet, the Truſs, the ſole cauſe of the cure, is ſcarcely allowed any part of the honour of it, but it is chiefly attributed to the trifling operations of ridiculous and inſignificant *Noſtrums*.

To Adults a courſe of phyſick of ſix weeks or two months is preſcribed; during which time they are confined to their bed. The horizontal poſition of the body prevents the Rupture from appearing. Deceived by this, the Patient readily ſatisfies the, often, unreaſonable demand made by the Practitioner, upon his declaring the perſon to be cured, even before the Patient is permitted to get out of bed, or a fair trial of the ſucceſs. But a very few days undeceives the unhappy ſufferer; the Rupture ſhews itſelf again. In vain the duped Patient laments his deplorable caſe. The money is paid, and all complaints or remonſtrances by letter are totally diſregarded. The pretended Eſculapius artfully avoids all farther interview. And though detected in his ignorance, eſcapes the Law, from the unwillingneſs of the Patient to make his caſe known to the Publick. This, I know, will produce many objections. I wait impatiently for them, in order to anſwer them by ſuch arguments as I ſhall

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ſubmit to the candid judgment of the well ſkilled and diſintereſted part of the faculty in London, under the inſpection of whom, and of ſeveral hundred diſcerning among the Publick I have cured a prodigious number by Truſſes only, and ſome of them of the bigeſt Ruptures poſſible. After all, QUI VULT DECIPI DECIPIATUR.

FINIS.